

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

FORMER MT. CARMEL RESIDENT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 11, 2006, **HAL DAWSON HICKS**, age 61, of Daytona Beach Shores, Florida (and formerly of Mt. Carmel, Illinois), was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. HICKS was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, 3 years' supervised release, and was fined \$3,000. In addition, the Court ordered HICKS to pay restitution in the amount of \$228,258.00 to the Internal Revenue Service and \$36.20 to the United States Postal Service.

HICKS had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of a federal Indictment. One count charged, that on February 20, 2003, HICKS made a false, fictitious, and fraudulent material statement and representation to the United States Postal Service, in that the defendant falsified a "Fuel Use Certification" form. The other count charged HICKS with omitting income from his federal 1998 tax return.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service and the United States Postal Service.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.

